

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid-absorbent composition, ~~comprises~~comprising:
a powder of a liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin ~~produced by crosslinking a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer with a polyfunctional isocyanate compound,~~
and a binder resin,

wherein the liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin comprises a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer crosslinked with a polyfunctional isocyanate compound.

2. (Original) The liquid-absorbent composition according to Claim 1, wherein said powder has an average particle diameter of 0.1 to 150 μm .

3. (Previously Presented) The liquid-absorbent composition according to Claim 1, wherein said methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of 50,000 to 1,200,000.

4. (Previously Presented) The liquid-absorbent composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is used in an amount of 0.1 to 2 mol per 100 mol of the constituent monomer units of the methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer.

5. (Previously Presented) The liquid-absorbent composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is a trifunctional isocyanate compound.

6. (Currently Amended) A liquid-absorbent sheet, comprising a supporting substrate and formed on one side thereof a liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin layer ~~produced by crosslinking a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer with a polyfunctional isocyanate compound~~wherein the liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin layer comprises a methyl

vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer crosslinked with a polyfunctional isocyanate compound.

7. (Original) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to Claim 6, wherein an adhesive layer is formed on the other side of the supporting substrate.

8. (Original) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to Claim 6, wherein said liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin layer contains a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

9. (Previously Presented) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to Claim 6, wherein said methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of 50,000 to 1,200,000.

10. (Previously Presented) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to Claim 6, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is used in an amount of 0.1 to 2 mol per 100 mol of the constituent monomer units of the methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer.

11. (Previously Presented) The liquid-absorbent sheet according to Claim 6, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is a trifunctional isocyanate compound.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a liquid-absorbent crosslinked resin, comprising dissolving a solution consisting of a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer in an amount of 3 to 35 wt% in a solvent with an SP value of 9 to 14, and adding a polyfunctional isocyanate compound to this solution to perform a crosslinking reaction.

13. (Original) The manufacturing method according to Claim 12, wherein said methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of 50,000 to 1,200,000.

14. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing method according to Claim 12, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is used in an amount of 0.1 to 2 mol per 100 mol of the constituent monomer units of the methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer.

15. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing method according to Claim 12, wherein the polyfunctional isocyanate compound is a trifunctional isocyanate compound.

16. (Previously Presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte battery pack, comprising a battery case and disposed within the battery case a nonaqueous electrolyte battery cell, a wiring circuit board, and an electrolyte absorption member for absorbing electrolyte in the event that electrolyte leaks from a nonaqueous electrolyte battery cell, wherein said electrolyte absorption member is formed from the liquid-absorbent composition according to Claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte battery pack, comprising a battery case and disposed within the battery case a nonaqueous electrolyte battery cell, a wiring circuit board, and an electrolyte absorption member for absorbing electrolyte in the event that electrolyte leaks from a nonaqueous electrolyte battery cell, wherein said electrolyte absorption member is formed from the liquid-absorbent composition or liquid-absorbent sheet according to Claim 6.